is only the richer ſort of people that uſe this brandy; and what they ſell is only the firſt running, which makes a very good dram.

Two pood of herbs[1] generally render one vedro * of the firſt running, and the pood coſts four rubles or more. The herbs that remain in the ſtill after drawing off all the ſpirit, are made uſe of as a yeſt, inſtead of berries, to ferment other infuſions or wort; and what they cannot uſe thus the cattle eat very greedily, and it fattens them much. It is remarkable that brandy diſtilled from the plants from which the ſkin has not been clean ſcraped, it cauſes melancholy and perturbation of mind. Mr *Steller* made the following remarks upon this brandy: 1ſt, that it is very piercing, and contains a good deal of a ſharp acid, which coagulates the blood and makes it black: 2dly, that a ſmall quantity of it makes people drunk and quite ſenſeleſs, and cauſes their faces to turn black: 3dly, that if a perſon drinks a few drams of it, he is plagued the whole night with diſagreeable dreams, and next day is uneaſy and diſturbed as if terrified with the apprehenſion of the greateſt misfortune: and, what is very extraordinary, he has ſeen ſome people the day after they have been drunk with this ſpirit, from one draught of cold water, become again ſo drunk that they could not ſtand upon their feet. They wet their hair with the juice, which they ſqueeze out of this herb in the ſpring, as a preſervative againſt lice, and find it to be their only relief. Many of the *Kamtſchadales*, who deſire to have children, will not eat this herb, green or dry, imagining that it impairs the generative faculties.

The herb kipri†, which grows in all *Europe* and *Aſia*, has the third place in the food of the *Kamtſchadales*. They

* Vedro is a *Ruſſian* liquid meaſure containing 25 pints.

† Epilobium. Linn. Succ. Spec. 1. French willows.

1. [the sweet herb, Sphondylium foliis pinnatifidis Linn. Cliff.

boil

1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

136 merous that travellers muſt wait two hours before they paſs. They return commonly to *Kamtſchatka* about the month of *October*. It is ſurpriſing that ſuch ſmall animals, in one ſummer, can paſs over ſuch an immenſe tract of land; and one cannot but admire the order and regularity which they obſerve in their march, as well as the foreknowledge they have of the change of weather.

825 Some of the inhabitants aſſured me, that when they go out of their neſts they cover their proviſions with poiſonous herbs, to deſtroy other rats that may come to rob their ſtore; and that, if all their winter proviſion is taken away, and nothing left that they can eat, in the ſtead of their own ſtores, they ſtrangle themſelves for vexation, ſqueezing their necks between the forked branches of ſhrubs: for which reaſon the *Kamtſchadales* never take away all their ſtore, and even pay for what they take by putting in either dried caviar, or ſomething that will ſerve the poor creatures for ſuſtenance. Although all theſe circumſtances are related by the moſt ſerious of the *Kamtſchadales*, yet we muſt not implicitly rely on their authority, before the facts are better enquired into.

231 The dogs of *Kamtſchatka* are extreamly like the common village dogs, and are white, black, ſpotted white and black, or grey like the wolves; brown or other colours being very rare. They are eſteemed ſwifter and longer-lived than any other dogs; and this may be attributed to their light ſimple food, which is fiſh. In the ſpring, every one lets his dogs run at liberty, without taking any care about them; for they can be uſed for travelling only while the ſnow is on the ground. They then feed upon what they can get in the fields, where they dig for the mice; and in the rivers they, as well as the bears, catch fiſh. In the month of *October* the *Kamtſchadales* call them home, and tie them up near their huts, 'till they loſe a good deal of their fat, that they may be lighter for the road, and then one bears

1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

hears their continual howling night and day. In the winter they are fed with opana and fiſh-bones, which are laid up for them in ſummer. The opana is thus prepared :—As much water as they think their dogs want they pour into a large trough, and then throw in ſome ladlefuls of ſour or rather rotten fiſh, which is prepared in pits for this purpoſe, adding to this ſome fiſh-bones, and heating the whole with glowing ſtones until the fiſh and bones be boiled. This opana is reckoned the beſt and moſt agreeable food for the dogs, and they feed them with it only at night, which makes them ſleep well; but never give them any in the day when they deſign to travel, becauſe it would make them heavy and lazy: though they be never ſo hungry they will not touch bread; but rather than that, eat their own bridles, reins, or harneſs, if they can get at them. However fond they may be of their maſter, yet, if he happens to fall out of his ſledge, and loſe his hold of it, they run away without regarding him; and he muſt walk on foot until the ſledge be overturned, or catched and ſtopped by ſomething or other; and therefore he ought to be careful never to loſe his hold, but rather ſubmit to be dragged upon his belly until the dogs tire. Beſides, upon any ſteep deſcent, eſpecially the banks of rivers, one half of them muſt be unyoked, otherwiſe they are not to be managed; for thoſe that appear quite tired ſhew an uncommon vigour in ſuch places, and the more dangerous the deſcent is the more ſtrength they exert. They are in like manner unruly if they find the ſcent of the deer, or hear the howling of other dogs in the villages near at hand. But for all this, the dogs are, and always will be, abſolutely neceſſary in *Kamtſchatka*, even although there ſhould be plenty of horſes; for they could ſeldom be uſed in winter on account of the great depth of ſnow, and the frequency of hills and rivers; and in ſummer, the bogs are ſo frequent, that ſome places are impaſſable even for men. Beſides dogs have this advantage over horſes; that

1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

23/ in the greateſt ſtorm, when a man cannot ſee the path, nor even
492 keep his eyes open, they very ſeldom miſs their way; and if
825 they ſhould, they go from one ſide to the other, 'till by the
237 ſmell they find it again: and when it is abſolutely impoſſible to
787 travel at all, which often happens, then the dogs lying round their maſter defend him from all danger. They alſo give certain ſigns of an approaching ſtorm; for, when they ſtop, if they ſcrape the ſnow with their feet, it is adviſeable, without loſs of time, to look out for ſome village, or other place of ſafety. And, it is ſaid, the dogs here ſerve inſtead of ſheep, becauſe their ſkins are uſed for cloaths; particularly thoſe of the white dogs, with which all their different ſorts of garments are trimed.

The number of dogs they put to a ſledge, how they break them, and what weight they carry, ſhall be mentioned hereafter, when we come to deſcribe the manner of travelling with dogs.

23/ Thoſe which are bred up to hunt the deer and wild rams, ſables, foxes, and the like, are ſometimes fed with jackdaws, which, it is obſerved, make their ſcent the ſtronger for finding out birds and wild beaſts.

Beſides dogs, they have here cows and horſes, but no other domeſtic animals. There is no fit place to feed ſheep on, either upon the Eaſtern Ocean, or the ſea of *Pengine*; for the wet weather and the ſtrong juicy graſs would ſoon rot and deſtroy them. Near the upper *Oſtrog*, and upon the river *Koſireff*, ſheep thrive; the weather being fairer, and graſs leſs watry; but then there muſt be a good proviſion of hay made for them againſt the winter, the ſnow being too deep for them to find their food in the fields; for which reaſon, from the mouth of the river *Ilga* to *Jakutſki*, very few ſheep are kept.

CHAP.

1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

136 brings forth its young alive, like the whale; and when its mouth is ſhut has ſome reſemblance of a ſturgeon, but its teeth are very different, being large and terrible. The *Kamtſchadales* eat the fleſh of this fiſh; and though it appears to be tough and ſtrong, they ſay it is exceedingly well taſted. The guts, and particularly the bladder, are in high eſteem; ſo that when they catch this fiſh, they never call it by its name, for fear, as they imagine, they ſhould provoke it to burſt its bladder, and render it uſeleſs to them. The teeth are ſold under the name of ſerpents' teeth.

136 Several fiſhes which are common to other ſeas are found here; as pike, eels, lampreys, cod, and very fine ſoals in great plenty; but the inhabitants make no account of theſe fiſh, and never uſe them unleſs in great neceſſity, or to feed their dogs. Mr. *Steller* obſerved four different ſpecies of flat fiſh.

There is a fiſh called * vahnae, which is a ſpecies of the cod; is round and thick, with three fins upon its back; and when taken out of the water is of a copper-colour, but preſently changes to yellow: its fleſh is white, but ſoft, and of a diſagreeable taſte; however the inhabitants eat more of it, than of other fiſh which are much better taſted; the reaſon indeed is, that they catch this fiſh in the beginning of the ſpring, when they can catch no other; a great deal of which they dry in the ſun uncleaned, deſigning it as proviſion for their dogs.

136 I ſaw the fiſh which they call † terpuk, but it being dry, I could not obſerve thoſe fine colours which Mr. *Steller* deſcribes. By his deſcription its back is blackiſh, its ſides are reddiſh, and chequered with fine ſilver-coloured ſpots; ſome of which are ſquare, and others circular: in its ſhape it reſembles the perch.

1. [moko or Canis Carcharius Autorus]

* Onos vel Aſinus Antiquorum.

† Dorcogrammos Stelleri.

They

l: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736) 1764 Kamchadal

The third kind of this fiſh is called keta or kacko; which is ſomewhat larger than the narka. The fleſh is white; the head flattiſh and longiſh; the ſnout is bent; the teeth, when it has been ſome time in the river, are like a dog's; its tongue is ſharp; its tail a little forked; its back black and green; its ſides and belly like other fiſh; and its ſkin is without ſpots. The *eukol* that is made of this fiſh they call their houſehold bread, being much more plenty than any other; as the ſeaſon of the fiſhery, which begins in *July* and ends about the middle of *October*, is drier and more proper for preparing it. This fiſh is caught in all the rivers both in the *Penſchinſka* and Eaſtern ſeas.

The gorbuſhe, or crook back, follows or ſometimes accompanies the keta. This fiſh is more plentiful than any other whatever; it is about eighteen inches long, and flattiſh; its fleſh is white; its head ſmall; its ſnout ſharp, and conſiderably crooked; its teeth ſmall; its back bluiſh, with round black ſpots; its ſides and belly like the other ſorts; and the tail forked. Though this fiſh is not bad, yet the inhabitants have ſuch plenty of what they eſteem better, that they uſe this only for their dogs.

The laſt of theſe kinds that come on ſhore is called white fiſh. This fiſh both in bulk and appearance is very like the keta; they differ in this indeed, that the keta has no ſpots, and the white fiſh has long black ſpots upon its back. It excels in taſte all the fiſhes that have white fleſh; and it agrees with the narka in this, that it moſt frequently haunts thoſe rivers that run out of the lakes, and is caught there in the ſame manner. The young ones, which accompany the old to take care of the roes and convoy the young fry down, are eſteemed by the inhabitants to be a different ſpecies, and are called milktchuch. So ſoon as the old ones have ſpawned, they take all care to provide for their own ſafety, retiring immediately to deep places where there are warm ſprings; and they are chiefly found in the ſprings near the *Bolſcheretſkoi* river

l: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

The fourth ſpecies is the harius, which is well known in *Siberia* and all *Ruſſia*; but thoſe that are here have the back fin longer than the others. Mr. *Steller* writes, that they come up into the rivers upon the firſt going off of the ice; but I never happened to ſee this fiſh in *Kamtſchatka*. 136

There is another ſpecies of red fiſh which reſembles the golſta, with this difference, that its head is larger, and the upper part of the ſnout a little hooked; its ſides are marked with red ſpots, like the malma: it is ſeldom longer than 20 inches.

Among the ſmall fiſhes which the *Kamtſchadales* feed upon are three ſpecies of ſmelts; one of which is called hagatch, the ſecond innaka, and the third uiki. The hagatch is our common ſmelt. The innaka differs from it a little, and is found in great plenty about the lake *Nerpech*. Uiki is thrown ſometimes upon the ſhore in vaſt heaps for 100 verſts together. They are eaſily diſtinguiſhed from the other ſpecies by a rough ſtripe that goes down the ſide. They commonly ſwim three together, and are ſo joined by the afore-mentioned rough ſtripe, that when you catch one the others cannot eaſily diſengage themſelves. The *Kamtſchadales* dry this fiſh as food for their dogs; but in caſe of ſcarcity they uſe it themſelves, although the taſte is very diſagreeable 136 231 262

The laſt kind of fiſh which we ſhall mention is the herring: theſe are found in great plenty in the Eaſtern Sea, but very ſeldom in the bays which lie upon the *Penſchinſka*. In my opinion they don't differ in the leaſt from the herring which we have in Europe; which Mr. *Steller* likewiſe confirms. In the harveſt they are found in large lakes, where they breed and winter: in the ſpring they ſwim towards the ſea. The greateſt fiſhery of them is in the lake *Viliutchin*, which is only about fifty fathom from the ſea, and has communication with it by a ſmall outlet. When theſe herrings enter the lake, this paſſage is ſhut up by the ſand being thrown into it, and remains ſo 'till the month of 136 226

March,

l: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

CHAP. IX.

231 *The Method of* TRAVELLING *with* DOGS, *and the* FURNITURE *neceſſary thereto.*

THE Dogs of *Kamtſchatka* differ very little from the common houſe dogs: they are of a middling ſize, of various colours, though there ſeem to be more white,
492 black, and grey, than of any other. In travelling they make uſe of thoſe that are gelded, and generally yoke four to a ſledge.

The alaki is made of broad double ſoft ſtraps, which are put over the dogs' ſhoulders, the near dog having it over his left, and the off dog over his right. At the end of theſe alaki's is a ſmall thong, with a hook at the end of it, which is faſtened to a ring in the fore part of the ſledge.

The pobeſhnick is a long ſtrap, and ſerves inſtead of a coach pole. It paſſes through a ring, which is in the middle of the fore part of the ſledge.; and to it is faſtened a chain that keeps the dogs together, that they ſhould not run aſunder.

The bridle is a long ſtrap, with a hook and chain, which is fixed to the fore dogs, and is much longer than the pobeſhnick, being faſtened to a ring in the fore part of the ſledge.

The oſheiniki, or collars, are broad ſtraps made of bear-ſkin, and are frequently put upon dogs merely for ornament.

They drive and direct their dogs with a crooked ſtick about four feet long, which they call the oſtal, and ſometimes adorn it with different coloured thongs: this is looked upon as a great
493 piece of finery. They drive their ſledges ſitting upon the right

ſide

5: Jochelson A-5 (1910-11) 1926 Kamchatka.

hunting the wild Kamchatka variety of reindeer. Fish, different species of salmon, ascend the Kamchatka rivers in such abundance that they amply satisfy the needs in food. The Kamchadal have no time during the short fishing season to dry or smoke all the fish for the winter and the greater part of it is put in holes covered with stones and earth, and during the winter it is consumed in a decayed state by dogs as well as by men.

To a certain degree the Kamchadal of the western coast hunt sea mammals, but, not having skin boats, they do not go out to the sea, but kill those seals, white whales (*Delphinopterus leucas*) and sea lions (seldom) which enter the mouths of rivers in order to catch the ascending fish. Thong nets are put up for that purpose. They also kill seals, spearing and shooting them at their rookeries.

Horned cattle and horses were imported into Kamchatka chiefly from the Okhotsk district, i. e., of the Yakut race. In spite of the fact that they are badly cared for, they became acclimatized in Kamchatka and are a strong race of domestic animals. The Kamchatka horses are small, short necked, wide breasted and with short legs. During the winter they become covered with long thick hair, particularly their legs. Horses are used only in summer—as riding and pack animals. During the winter they are set free and have to graze from under the snow; rarely are they given hay and they therefore turn wild and have to be captured in the summer and trained again for riding.

Cow's milk plays at present an important rôle in the food of the Kamchadal and Russian inhabitants of the country. They use sweet as well as sour milk and pot cheese. Butter is rarely made, although the milk is rich in fat. But the Kamchatka cows give a small quantity of milk, about two or three quarts a day, as a result of scanty feeding in winter and of being kept in cold stalls. The Kamchadal make little hay, as the season for fishing and hay making coincide. One cow may be reckoned for every three inhabitants. The number of cattle may be estimated, according to the writer's census, at about 2,000.

Prior to the advent of the Russian the only domestic animal of the Kamchadal was the driving dog. The Kamchadal dog was regarded as the best and biggest driving dog of Siberia; at present, as a result of unfavorable conditions of life, it has become small in size. The dogs work hard during the long winter, but during the entire summer they are tied up, otherwise calves and colts and sometimes cows and horses are in danger of being torn by them. They are kept far from the village and poorly fed. Owing to the economic, climatic and topographic conditions of the country, the Kamchadal can not dispense with the driving dog, and every family has from eight to fifteen dogs. The number of dogs in 1911 in Kamchatka, according to my census, was more than 5,000. The old Kamchadal sledge for riding astride is no longer in use, the Russians having introduced the type of sledge used all over eastern Siberia. The dogs are harnessed to the sledge, being tied in pairs to a long thong.

There are no domesticated small animals, as goats or sheep and birds, in Kamchatka, as they would be exterminated by the ever hungry dogs, which very often find means to free themselves.

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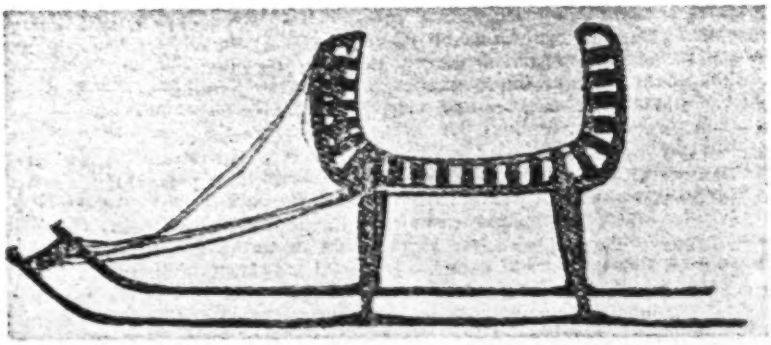


18th-century dogsled.

105

[122] [462] handle. Later the horn was replaced by an iron tip. Gathering plants was women's work. Fishing and hunting were men's occupations, but the preserving of fish was in the woman's domain, as were the spinning of thread for the nets from nettle, the weaving of mats, and sewing of clothes. Krasheninnikov reports that preparing food, tending the dogs and all carpentry work were done by men.

The Russians found among the Itel'mens a highly developed neolithic technology. "The former Kamchatka metals, almost until the coming of the Russians, were bone and stones. They were used in the making of axes, knives, spears, arrows, lancets and needles," Krasheninnikov writes about the Itel'mens. Rock crystal was also widely used for knives and tips. Fire was made with a wooden drill. Food, mainly fish and meat, was cooked even in the early 18th century in wooden troughs, into which red-hot stones were thrown.

[321] [324] [372] [252]

The only domesticated animal of the Itel'mens was the dog. Later, harness dog-breeding of the so-called Eastern Siberian type developed in Kamchatka. However, until the middle of the 19th century, the Itel'mens used their ancient sled with two pairs of arched staves and a saddle-like seat. At the time of Krasheninnikov's visit, the Itel'mens had gliding skis, but used mostly woven snowshoes. River navigation was by bat—narrow boats, hollowed out of whole poplar trunks. For stability and greater carrying capacity, two of these boats were sometimes tied together and covered to make a platform. Krasheninnikov reports that it took the Itel'mens three years to make a bat with a stone adze.

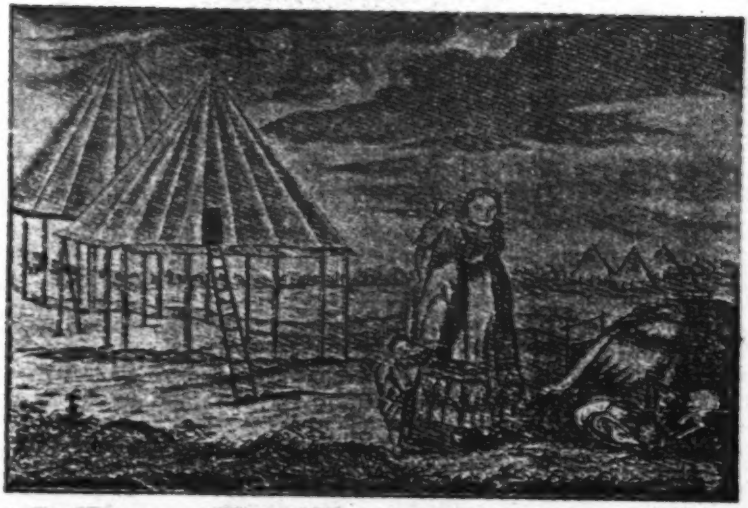
[231] [77] [493] [481] [501] [461]

The Russians called the Itel'men villages in the 18th century ostrozhkas, or "little forts." They were situated along river banks and consisted of winter and summer dwellings. The winter dwelling was a semiunderground yurt, as it was then called by the Russians, with an entrance through the smoke-opening in the roof. The dwelling also had a side exit, but this was used only by women and children. The summer dwelling of the individual family was the so-called balagan—a pyramidal, grass-covered tent set on high platforms resting on piles. The ancient dress of the Itel'mens resembled Koryak and Chukchi dress.

[361] [342] [291] [171]

Such, in its general features, was the material culture of the Itel'mens in the beginning of the 18th century. Analogous to the low level of material production were the primitive forms of social relations.

6:Antropova E-4 (no date) 1964 RY3 Kamchadal RY3



Village, 18th-century engraving.

At the time of the first Russian acquaintance with Kamchatka the Itel'mens maintained a primitive-communal order. "Until its subjection to Russian rule," wrote Krasheninnikov, "this wild people lived in a state of complete freedom; it had no masters, was subjected to no laws, and paid tribute to no one. Old and courageous people had superior position in every ostroshka, but this meant only that their advice was hearkened to. Generally, there was equality among them, no one could issue commands to anyone else, and no one had the right to mete out punishment on his own to anyone." Every village was inhabited by members of one clan. The semidugout housed several related families; the number of its inhabitants sometimes was as high as 100. They were bound by collective production and consumption. The custom of vendetta prevailed.

The woman held a high position in family and social life. Many features of matriarchy persisted in the Itel'men social system. These included the husband's moving into the wife's home, or at least temporary residence in the father-in-law's house; marriage by working for the bride, which involved the groom's moving to her home and performing various tasks. But the matriarchal organization was already in a state of disintegration in the beginning of the 18th century. Constant wars among individual clans and with neighboring peoples, waged for the sake of seizing women and captives, who were partially turned into slaves, intensified this process. The arrival of Russians in Kamchatka led to rapid changes in the economy and life of the Itel'mens.

The religious notions of the Itel'mens, according to 18th-century explorers, and primarily Krasheninnikov, had many elements in common with the beliefs of the Koryaks and Chukchi. These included the idea of the raven-creator, rituals and celebrations connected with the annual economic cycle, whale, bear and other ceremonials, consisting of "treating" and "giving gifts" to the animals killed in the hunt. The most important of these was the fall festival, ending in "purification"—passing through hoops of birch twigs. The Itel'mens believed in evil mountain and forest

6:Antropova E-4 (no date) 1964 RY3 Kamchadal RY3

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View of the village of Sedanka, early 20th century.

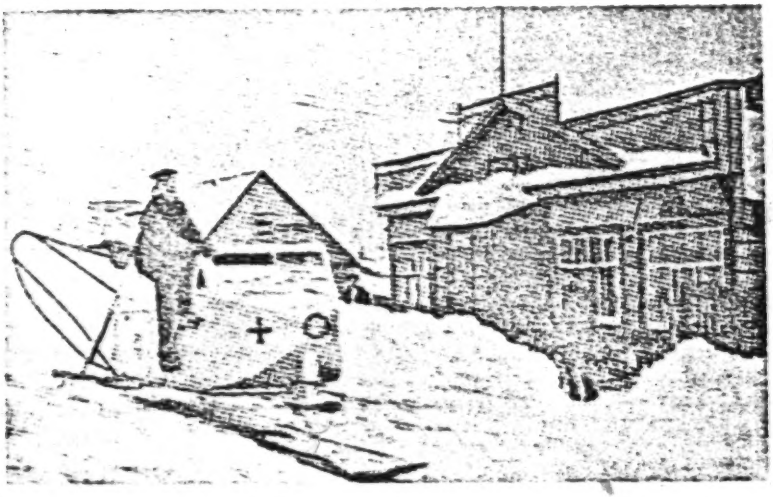
The development of trade gave rise to the exploitation of the Itel'mens by merchants. These gave the Itel'mens goods on credit, often against their will; then, if the debt was not paid in time, they doubled or tripled the sum. Often, an Itel'men would have to pay as long as he lived for some small article, such as a knife. This type of trade did not disappear even after the formation of the Russo-American Company (1799). The company sold its wares at prices 10 times higher than their actual value. By the 1860's, the indebtedness of the Itel'mens to this company had risen to the grandiose sum of 150,000 rubles.

The Itel'men economy remained essentially subsistence. The fishing catch went solely for the satisfaction of the fishermen's needs, and none of it was sold. The only articles that had commodity value were furs. Villages were governed by elders, elected by the villagers and approved by the Russian administration. Very often the post of elder was hereditary. Survivals of clan organization were preserved among the Itel'mens until the 20th century. These included elements of collective production and distribution of food products—collective fishing by means of fishtraps, collective seal hunting, division of the carcass of a whale cast up on the shore, the custom of mutual aid, etc.

The first efforts at introducing agriculture were made after the founding of a monastery (the Uspenskaya Pustyn') on Kamchatka, in the first quarter of the 18th century. In the 1740's the first group of Russian peasants was resettled in Kamchatka. Further groups of settlers followed, but agriculture enjoyed small success. The administrative method of introducing agriculture among the Itel'mens could yield no appreciable results with the primitive agricultural techniques of that time. The products of agriculture therefore held a small place in Itel'men economy. Gardening was more successful. In the second half of the 19th century, all Itel'men villages had small gardens, producing potatoes, turnips and horse-radish. But even this gardening was negligible in scope and extremely primitive. The natives were unskilled in tending plants; they dug the soil with wooden hoes, did not know about watering, and so on.

Cattle were first brought to Kamchatka in 1733, and again, from time to time, in succeeding years. The livestock was kept grazing all year; there was little preparation of hay. Horses were also left to their own devices, and became so wild that they were difficult to catch. They were used chiefly in autumn as riding and pack animals. Wheel transport, such as the cart,

6:Antropova E-4 (no date) 1964 RY3 Kamchadal RY3



Medical aerosleigh.

wheel transport such as the cart, was unknown before the Revolution. For cattle, the Itel'mens built cold barns or sheds and provided some supplementary fodder in winter. However, the milk yield was very low, and livestock mortality was high.

From the Russians, the Itel'mens obtained improved means of production: firearms, nets, etc. Stone and bone implements were completely abandoned in favor of metal ones. Russian clothing and utensils began to come into use. The primitive semidugout was gradually (and by the beginning of the 19th century, completely) replaced by wooden board dwellings, and occasionally by log houses of the Russian type. Simultaneously with the absorption of Russian culture by the Itel'mens, a reverse process was also taking place in the 18th and 19th centuries. Soldiers, Cossacks and peasants, who were systematically being resettled on the peninsula after the middle of the 18th century, married Itel'men women and acquired some elements of their way of life and culture. The result was that peculiar population of the peninsula which became known, as we have pointed out earlier, under the name of Kamchadals and was often mistakenly classified as Itel'men.

In the early 20th century, the condition of the Itel'mens deteriorated in consequence of the development of the Japanese capitalist fishing industry in Kamchatka. Predatory industrial fishing at the mouths of rivers during spawning runs caused almost annual failures of the native catch and led to inevitable famines.

Contemporary Life of the Itel'mens

During the civil war in the Far East, the Itel'mens actively helped the guerrilla units, and later the Red Army troops, in liquidating the White bands. The guerrilla units included many residents of the villages of Napana, Utkholok, Kovran and Sedanka. In 1921, the Soviet government was firmly established on the peninsula, and the reconstruction of the economy was launched.

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

251 have a place ſheltered from the heat of the
231 ſun, and at the ſame time perfectly expoſed to the air. Under the collonnades or ruſtic porticos, which form the lower part of their balagans, they find this convenience; and there they hang their fiſh, either to the ceiling or to the ſides, that it may be out of the reach of the voracioufneſs of their dogs. The Kamtſchadales make uſe of dogs * to draw their ſledges; the beſt, that is the moſt vicious, have no other kennel than what the portico of the balagans affords them, to the poſts of which they are tied. Such are the advantages reſulting from the ſingular mode of conſtructing the balagans, or ſummer habitations of the Kamtſchadales.

Thoſe of winter are leſs ſingular; and if

* As I ſhall ſoon be obliged to adopt this mode of travelling, I ſhall defer my deſcription of the dogs till that period.

equally

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchada

226 by cloſing up the river with ſtakes and branches of trees, ſo as to leave only a narrow paſſage for the fiſh, or ſometimes ſeveral, where they place baſkets, ſo conſtructed that, if the fiſh once enter, it is impoſſible for them to retreat.

231 492 Horſes are very ſcarce in Kamtſchatka. I ſaw ſome at Bolcheretſk belonging to government, and intruſted to the care of the Coſſacs. They merely ſerve during ſummer for the carriage of merchandize and other effects of the crown, and for the convenience of travellers.

Dogs however abound in this country, and are ſo ſerviceable to the Kamtſchadales as to render the privation of the other domeſtic animals leſs felt by them. They ſerve all the purpoſes of carriage, and are fed without difficulty or expence, their food conſiſting entirely of the offals, or ſuch decayed

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

231
492 fiſh as are rejected by their maſters; and even theſe are not allowed, unleſs when it is neceſſary. In ſummer, which is their ſeaſon of reſt, little care is taken of them; the dogs well know how to provide for themſelves, by ranging over the country and along the ſides of lakes and rivers; and the punctuality with which they return, is one of the moſt ſtriking proofs of the fidelity of theſe animals. When winter arrives, they dearly pay for the liberty and temporary repoſe they have enjoyed. Their labour and ſlavery begin anew, and theſe dogs muſt have extreme vigour to be able to ſupport them. Ma nwhile they are not remarkably large, and reſemble pretty exactly our mountain dogs, or ſuch as are commonly uſed by ſhepherds. There is not an individual inhabitant, Ruſſian or native, that has leſs than five. They make uſe of them when they travel, when they go to the foreſts to cut wood, and for the conveyance

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

231/492 veyance of their effects and proviſions, as well as their perſons. In ſhort, theſe dogs conduct travellers from place to place, and horſes could not in reality be more ſerviceable. They are harneſſed to a ſledge two and two together*, with a ſingle one before as a leader. This honour is beſtowed on the moſt intelligent, or the beſt trained dog, and he underſtands wonderfully the terms uſed by the conductor to direct his courſe. The cry of *tagtag*, *tagtag*, turns him to the right, and *kougba*, *kougba*, to the left; the intelligent animal underſtands it

* They are caſtrated like horſes, but the mode of performing the operation is different. The Kamtſchadales do not extirpate the teſticles, but bruiſe them, and the inſtrument they make uſe of is their teeth. Some of them do not ſurvive, and others are crippled and unfit for ſervice. In the mean time it is imagined that equal advantage could not be derived from theſe animals, if they were permitted to remain in their natural ſtate; it would not be practicable to harneſs them with females. All the males, however, are not mutilated; a ſufficient number is reſerved for the preſervation of the ſpecies, and theſe are frequently uſed for hunting.

7: Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

231 immediately, and gives to the reſt the ex-
492 ample of obedience: *ab*, *ab*, ſtops them, and
493 *ba* makes them ſet off. The number of dogs that it is neceſſary to harneſs, depends upon the load; when it is little more than the weight of the perſon who mounts the ſledge, it is conſidered as a common ſledge, or *ſaunka**, and the team conſiſts of four or five dogs. The harneſs† is made of leather. It paſſes under the neck, that is, upon the breaſt of theſe ſteeds, and is joined to the ſledge by a ſtrap three feet long, in the manner of a trace: the dogs are alſo faſtened together by couples paſſed through their collars; theſe collars are frequently covered with bear's ſkin, by way of ornament.

493 The form of the ſledge is like that of an

* The ſledges for baggage are called *narta*, and are drawn by ten dogs.

† Called *alaki*.

oblong

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

000 After a few bad nights, ſleep at laſt overpowered me, and I was inſenſible to all noiſe. By degrees I became ſo inured to the cries of theſe animals, that I could repoſe in the midſt of them in perfect tran-
231 quillity. I ſhall mention in this place, that the dogs are only fed once a day, at the end of their journey; their repaſt conſiſts commonly of a dried ſalmon diſtributed to each of them.

133 The oſtrog of Malkin is ſimilar to thoſe
361 which I have already deſcribed. It contains five or ſix iſbas and a dozen balagans, is ſituated upon the border of the Biſtraïa, and ſurrounded with high mountains. I had no time to viſit the hot ſprings that are ſaid to be in this neighbourhood, the waters of which are ſtrongly impregnated with ſulphur; and one in particular, iſſuing from the declivity of a hill, forms at the bottom a baſon of tolerably clear water.

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal

175 In the opinion of those who had been in Petropaulovsky at the time, the disaster was chiefly due to the division of the forces on landing,—one body getting ahead of, and being fired into by the other. The thickness of the bush prevented a recognition of this error, and the attacking party imagined themselves taken in rear. The Cossacks took advantage of the mistake, and before long the Allies were in a state of confusion which the nature of the ground rendered hopeless. More met their death by being driven over the precipice, it was said, than actually fell before the rifles of the Cossacks.

The victors were left in peace for the time being, but, in the spring of the following year, the Allied Squadron once more made its appearance. The *President*, *Pique*, *Dido*, *Brisk*, *Encounter*, and *Barracouta*, together with the French frigate *Alceste*, assembled off Kamschatka, and entered Avatcha Bay on the 31st May, 1855. They found the town completely deserted by the Russians. Three foreign residents alone remained, and from them they learned that the settlement had been evacuated by order of the Emperor upon the breaking up of the ice. Even the natives had fled. On the 7th June the batteries and magazines, which had been strengthened and increased in number since the engagement in the preceding year, were blown up, and two days later all the Government buildings were burnt to the ground. The latter proceeding was, in all probability, the wanton act of some English blue-jackets, and was done without the knowledge of our authorities. It was an unfortunate occurrence, the explanation of which could hardly be expected to be believed by the Russians, and the affair still rankles in the breast of the inhabitants of the little settlement.

A few days later the Squadron left, and the inhabitants returned to their homes. Poor little Petropaulovsky has to rest content on her honours of 1854, for the town has never been refortified, and is now no longer a military post.

231 492 One cannot be long in Kamschatka without making the acquaintance of that very necessary animal, the sledge-dog. When

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal

231/492 the fact is taken into consideration, that for every inhabitant of the peninsula there are at least five or six of these animals, it will be understood that the effect produced is hardly inferior to that exhibited by the streets of Constantinople. "A dog's life" is a phrase which is here most appropriately realised. No comfortable homes are provided for them to enable them to withstand the rigours of the arctic climate, and the poor beast, except when actually at work, has in most cases to "find himself." Long experience, and the instinct transmitted to him by his ancestors, has, however, given him all the resources of an old campaigner. Stumbling at night about the uncertain paths of the settlements, the traveller is not unfrequently precipitated into the huge rabbit-burrows which the animal constructs to avoid the cutting winds. His coat, nearly as thick as that of a bear, is composed of fur rather than hair. As for his manners, they are, like those of the midshipman's savage, almost non-existent. He has thoroughly grasped the fact that self-preservation is the first law of Nature, and does not scruple to act upon it, in its widest meaning, upon every occasion. Wonderfully well-trained, cunning, and enduring, he is at the same time often obstinate and unmanageable to a degree, and is apparently indifferent to the kicks and blows so liberally showered upon him by his master. Excepting in settlements where neighbouring stretches of *tûndra* render the use of sledges possible in summer, he has a long holiday during that season. During this time he wanders over the country at will, sometimes returning at night to his burrow, at others being absent for days together. A good hunter and fisherman, he supports himself upon the game and salmon he catches, and it is but rarely that he deserts his master for good. But the inhabitants have to pay a good price for
231/136 his services. Owing to his rapacity, it is impossible to keep sheep, goats, or any of the smaller domestic animals, and Kamschatka is one of the few countries in the world in which fowls are unknown.[1]

[1] In Petropaulovsky this loss is partially made up for by large quantities of sea-birds' eggs brought from Okhotsk, and the islands at the mouth of Avatcha Bay.

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal

231 *Rien n'est sacré pour un sapeur.* Raw hides, boots, and even babies,
136 it is said, occasionally vary his diet!

To our ship's crew Petropaulovsky appeared little less than a paradise. The bright sunny weather and clear cold nights were a pleasant change after the heat of the tropics, and the forecastle mess was furnished with many unaccustomed delicacies. The
136 harbour and rivers teemed with fish; periwinkles *à discretion* were
137 to be had for the picking, and milk and bilberries were abundant. The whiting and herrings were, however, left in comparative peace, owing to the ease with which salmon were to be obtained at the mouths of the Avatcha and Paraminka rivers. On one occasion no less than three hundred of these fish were obtained at one haul of the seine, and the crew occupied themselves in salting, smoking,
000 and otherwise preserving the spoil. Jack was in his element, and doubtless would not have objected to passing the rest of his life in such a fascinating spot. Our shooting excursions to various parts of the bay were much enjoyed by the boats' crews, and the forward part of the ship began ere long to be ornamented with bearskins that the men had obtained by purchase or barter from the natives. Meanwhile we had been making arrangements with the Ispravnik, and the individual I have before mentioned under the title of the King of Kamschatka, for the ponies that were necessary for the first part of our journey; but, as there was some delay in getting
133 together the requisite number, a party of us started to visit the hot springs of Kluchi,[1] which lie some few miles from the shore on the other side of the bay. Excepting during strong south-easterly winds, which send a somewhat heavy swell into the entrance, the passage across is generally pleasant enough even in small boats. Though blocked with ice in the winter, the bay is, we understood, but rarely frozen right across, although the harbour of Petropaulovsky is, of course, closed for some months. Landing in a bay north-west of the entrance to Tareinska Harbour, we passed through an extensive birch-forest, and emerged at length on the shores of a

[1] Kluchi, I believe, is the Russian word for springs.

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal

136 Avatcha River, and forty versts from Petropaulovsky. We passed
137 through the same monotonous forests of birch as before, which, like
487 those of other northern countries, seemed singularly devoid of animal life. An occasional coal tit, which from its note and habits appeared identical with the tame little freebooter of our own gardens, or the tapping of a woodpecker,[1] alone broke the almost death-like stillness which reigned around. We had struck a well-marked trail, and progressed in Indian file, the packhorses (tied in fours, each to the tail of the one in front) leading the way, and relieving the monotony by an occasional breakdown or a stampede.
231 Almost all these ponies are strong and well shaped, but from the ill-treatment they receive at the hands of their masters, have learned to bite, kick, and shy on all occasions, together with other accomplishments of like nature which were somewhat apt to dis-
000 turb our equilibrium. There was but one saddle among us, and the "Kamschatkan Peats," as we named the combination of pillow and pack-saddle which we used as a substitute, though comfortable enough when we ambled along quietly, were apt to become slightly insecure when, as a naval member of our party expressed it, we "made bad weather."

The path between Stari-ostrog and Petropaulovsky appears to be tolerably well-travelled, to judge from the frequency with which we came across the marks of old camping-grounds, but we met with no one on our way. It was afternoon when we reached the river, and crossing a small affluent, found ourselves opposite the village. We had ridden on ahead, and were hailing the natives for canoes in which to cross, when a tremendous clattering in our rear caused us to turn, and we beheld the cook's horse advancing in full stampede, but minus his rider. Beneath his belly a large canteen swung violently from side to side, half-open, and discharging a shower of tin cups, knives, forks, plates, tea and coffee kettles, and other articles of like nature in all directions. We retraced our steps sadly, picking up such articles as we could find, but

[1] *Picus tridactylus*, considered as a distinct species (*P. albidior*) by Dr. Stejneger.

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal

132 at the base of the low range of hills bounding the plain,—the finger-marks, as it were, of the icy grip of winter.

231 361 We reached Narchiki early in the afternoon, and were greeted by the prolonged howls of innumerable dogs. Though the village boasts of only six huts, there are over one hundred and fifty of these animals to pull the sledges of the inhabitants by day, and to endeavour, in combination with other equally hungry, though happily smaller creatures, to disturb their rest by night. The sledge-dog, indeed, appears to do without sleep, and anything more hideous than their nocturnal concerts it would be difficult to imagine. Fortunately an open-air life and hard work are not generally compatible with insomnia, and after a few nights the traveller would be more apt to miss his music than to abuse it.

133 136 226 Narchiki is placed on a little branch of the Avatcha River, which is here not more than eighteen inches deep. Standing upon its banks we began for the first time dimly to realise the vast numbers of fish which must annually visit the country, and which may be said literally to choke its rivers. Hundreds were in sight, absolutely touching one another; and as we crossed the river our 136 226 horses nearly stepped upon them. Their back fins were visible as far as we could see the stream, and aground and gasping in the shallows, and lying dead or dying upon the banks, were hundreds more. The odour from these decaying fish was distinctly perceptible at a distance of a couple of hundred yards or more. In weight these salmon varied from seven to fifteen and even twenty pounds. They were for the most part foul fish,—blotchy with patches of red and white, and of the kind known by the Russians as the Garbusa;[1] but others in fair condition were to be found, and with a little trouble I was able to pull out three good ten-pound fish in as many minutes with a gaff. Any other method of fishing would have been useless. It would have been nearly impossible to make a cast without foul-hooking a fish, and nine-tenths, or more of them, were in an uneatable condition. Had we wished to do so, we

[1] *Salmo proteus* of Pallas.

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal

136 when the first heavy snow falls, at or about the beginning of the month of October. If in poor condition the bear is said not to hybernate till much later. According to the natives, the animals are tolerably fat on emerging from their dens, and support themselves on grass until the arrival of the fish.

133 137 Our road, some time after leaving Narchiki, had led to the west, in order to avoid a range of mountains of no great height which trends in a south-easterly direction from the village of Gunal. We now turned north once more, and entered a beautiful valley. To the east lay the range we had been circumventing, rising to a height of about 4000 feet, its large patches of snow glittering in the bright sun. The outline of these mountains was most picturesque; and, as we advanced, we opened out a group of *aiguilles* so jagged as to resemble a mass of inverted icicles. The valley was scantily clothed with juniper-bushes and dwarf birches, and early autumn had already touched the landscape here and there with patches of bright yellow. As we rode over the ruddy ground, which with its brilliant parti-coloured moss is so characteristic a feature of northern landscapes, we put up several coveys of ptarmigan; and on the outskirts of a small wood we obtained our first Capercailzie, a young bird which, like many other birds of this region, was characterised by the presence of a good deal of white in the plumage. The day was glorious, and so hot that we rode in our shirt-sleeves; our enjoyment only marred by the almost constant stumbling of our horses over the stumps and roots of the trees. The Kamschatkan ponies, which are generally iron-grey in colour, and stand about thirteen hands, are well shaped and have a good barrel, and are capable of a considerable amount of work. Owing, however, to the rough usage to which they are subjected, they are determined kickers, and obstinate to a degree; and it is most difficult to make them lead the way, or, if behind, to prevent them from following in the exact track of those in front. No food is carried for them, and not content with the nightly meal they obtain when picketed, they one and all feed in snatches as they

132 136 231

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal

231 go along, an annoying habit of which it was impossible to break them. Their ordinary load is from six to seven pood.[1]

133 361 491 It was not long before the presence of some large poplars ahead, combined with certain whiffs of decaying fish, to which no description can do justice, warned us that we were in the neighbourhood of a river; and the howls of sledge-dogs presently greeted us as we arrived at the settlement of Gunal. We found some of the inhabitants engaged in making a bridge,—really a very creditable affair, as the river here is about twenty-five yards broad, with a channel some six feet or more in depth. Above the village this stream—the Bolchaia-reka, or Great Bolcheresk River—splits into two or three branches, which reunite a quarter of a mile lower, after having received two rapid, but shallow little affluents from the west.

144 161 177 361 771 793 Gunal is a most picturesquely-situated little hamlet of about twenty huts, and has a population of ninety-four souls, who are all, without exception, the descendants of Russians who established themselves here with Kamschatdale wives in the last century. The latter people are now rare as a pure race, excepting upon the western side of the peninsula. The Gunalians are all Christians, and have built themselves a church,—a small log-cabin surmounted with a cross. Within the same enclosure, but separate, just as in Northern Sweden, is a little belfry with a single bell, time-worn and defaced. Owing to its inaccessibility, we were unable to read the inscription with which it was adorned. The church is parsonless. There are but three popes for the whole of the vast district lying between Petropaulovsky and the mouth of the Kamschatka River. Here the nearest is at Melcova, a hundred versts or more away; and once in every four months he comes in, marries and buries such of his parishioners as need it, holds service, and departs. He has not much to do, for the people are both apathetic and long-lived. In the little churchyard hard by there were scarcely twenty graves. They were marked by Russian crosses with a little

[1] A pood is equal to 36 lbs. English.

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal

000 who suffer from a plethora of callers in our own country. I commend the suggestion to the more progressive of my readers.

231/492 The inhabitants of the village had already begun to get in and tie up their dogs in anticipation of the coming winter. There were over two hundred of them here, and we had ample opportunity of studying their habits. Most of them are white, with

BALAGAN AND SLEDGE DOGS.

black heads, or entirely of a brown-black, and their general aspect, owing to the sharp muzzle and prick ears, is decidedly wolf-like,—an appearance that one is familiar with from the sketches of North American travellers. The only food they are provided with by their masters is salmon of the hump-backed kind—the Garbusa; but during the summer, as I have already said, they pick up game, eggs, and birds in their wanderings about the country. They are usually inspanned in teams of eight or ten, but where the sledges are heavy or the roads bad, double that number, or even more, are occasionally used. When the snow is hard and even, they will

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal

231/492 draw a weight of 360 lbs. a distance of five-and-thirty or forty miles with ease in a day's work; and with an unloaded sledge with a single occupant, a pace of eight versts an hour can be kept up for a considerable time. On the road they are given one-third of a fish twice during the day, and a fish and a half at night, which they wash down with a few gulps of snow. The dogs are castrated when puppies, and have their tails cut at the end of the first year. Each has a name, which he answers to when he is driven in the sledge just in the same way as a Cape ox in a waggon team, for no whips are used. If chastisement be necessary, the driver throws his stick at the delinquent, or pounds the unfortunate creature with any stone that comes handy. There are many ways of tethering these animals, all having in view the one object of keeping them apart, as, excepting upon the road, they seize every opportunity of fighting. One method—the one that obtrudes itself most upon the traveller's notice—is by making a large tripod of poles, and tying a dog at the bottom of each; and in many villages, owing to the large number of dogs which have to be kept, these tripods form a characteristic feature.

000 We had many reasons to induce us to take a couple of days' rest at Gunal. Louis was suffering from a chill consequent on the wetting of the previous day; one of us had a slight touch of fever caught some years before in Africa; and at the camp kitchen Cook sat a prisoner as a surgical patient, imperturbably smoking cigarettes and picking up Russian from Afanasi. A slight injury to the ankle, combined with mosquito bites and many hours of riding, had produced an inflamed leg,—a rather awkward accident at this juncture, as we wished to press on as rapidly as we could. In addition, the camp gear needed drying after Vodki's exploit, and as there were said to be plenty of bear in the neighbourhood, we settled to remain.

The following day was gloriously hot, and before long the camp presented the appearance of a washerwoman's drying-ground. The sun heat was, indeed, so great that we gladly took refuge in

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal

177 Most I
231 of them were clothed in leather breeches and the boots I have
291 already described, with the ordinary loose blue shirt of the Russian peasant, but some had already commenced to wear the *parka*. These are not all of reindeer, which is not a common animal except among the Koriaks, but are also made of bear and dog fur, although the dogs are not grown for the purpose, as is the case in Lapland.

164 If leprosy be in any way connected with a diet in which fish is
262 one of the chief constituents, as is by some supposed to be the case,
757 in no country in the world should it be more prevalent than in Kamschatka. Dr. Dybowski had assured me that it was very common, and had shown me photographs in which the expression of the disorder appeared identical with that unfortunately so frequent in Norway. But the only case which came under our notice was at this place, and since the sufferers do not appear to be secluded in any way, it is only fair to conclude that, in the interior of the country at least, the disease cannot be very prevalent. Syphilis is, unhappily, very general, but its effects are now far less terrible than on its first introduction.

133 We paddled merrily down stream in spite of the still unsettled
137 arguments as to the price we were to pay our men. Below Mashura the pines become more numerous, and the perpendicular mud cliffs are a characteristic feature of the river. Beneath these we found the depth of the stream to be often as much as eighteen or twenty feet, but the mean depth is probably not more than half as great. Huge piles of driftwood block the banks of every low promontory, and testify to the enormous force and volume of the stream upon the breaking up of the ice,—a phenomenon which can dimly be realised from the wonderfully graphic description of Mr. Seebohm in his "Siberia in Asia." Owing to the increased depth of the water, snags became less frequent and navigation easier; but the size of our rafts prevented us from making more than five versts an hour, a rate that our log, frequently heaved and with corrections applied for the current, told us to be fairly constant.

Hitherto we had been able with the greatest ease to shoot as

[i.e., the inhabitants of Mashura--analyst]

24: Lansdell-636-637 M-2 (1879) 1882 Kamchadal-1-2
116, 136, 231, 492

" Among the animals of Kamchatka there is none with which the traveller becomes more familiar than the dog, which is found wild on the hills. The color is usually buff or silver-grey, and in nature and disposition he resembles the mastiff and the wolf, [637] sleeping, like the latter, more by day than by night. He is intelligent as regards his work, but not affectionate, as may be said of the steppe dogs, and has to be ruled by the rod. It is not usually safe to leave these dogs loose, for they kill fowls, deer, smaller dogs, and sometimes even children.(1) As on the Amur, they are usually fed on fish,

1. They love sledging, and upon a journey of four or five days will work from 14 to 16 hours out of the 24 without tasting food, the idea of their masters being that, when travelling, the less food the dogs receive, short of starvation, the better. The travelling sledge weighs about 25 lbs. (a freight sledge is heavier), and a good team will travel from 40 to 60 miles a day. When running, they must be paired with dogs known to each other from puppies; and, should they happen to cross the scent of a deer, so fond are they of its flesh that they sometimes become utterly unmanageable, upset the sledge (or nartee, as it is called), and leave the driver, it may be, to perish in the snow.

particulary the salmon, besides which there are caught in Kamchatka, or off its coasts,

the cod, herring, smelt as also whales, walruses, and seals. The country abounds with geese, ducks, and a variety of wild fowl."

28: Sarytschew--63-64 T-1 (1789-90) 1806 Kamchadal-1-2
116, 231, 492, 493

"On the approach of winter, the inhabitants are busied with putting their sledges in order, and tying up their dogs, to fit them for drawing, as they are in fine weather allowed to run loose. Sledges and dogs are in general use here, both for travelling and conveyance. ...

The sledges here differ very considerably from those of Ochotsk, being shorter, smaller, lighter, and much higher. They will scarcely hold two, and are very unsteady on account of their monstrous height. In descending any hill, the utmost care and dexterity is requisite, to keep the feet and the oschtol in the proper direction; for the smallest oversight of this kind may cost a person his life, as has been the case with even experienced drivers, who have been dashed to pieces against the trees lying in the way.

The management of the dogs is no less difficult and dangerous here than at Ochotsk; for they are equally apt to become ungovernable on the scent of any animal. In order to stop them, they drive the oschtol between the front sledge of the conveyance as far into the snow as possible, and always keep the two fore dogs in a tight rein, that none may be able to run away. When the declivity of any mountain is unusually steep and dangerous, they bind birch-twigs round the bottom of the sledge, to impede its course. The cry of ko ko ko stops the dogs; aach aach drives them on; chna chna chna, turns them to the right; and uga uga uga, to the left. Hunters to not make use of these words, for fear of frightening their game, but strike gently with the oschtol on the right side of the sledge, when they should turn to the right, and bend them down to the snow to the left, when they

should go to the left. Besides the danger in this mode of travelling, it is attended with many inconveniences. You must never let your dogs go loose. If ever you are overturned, you must rather be dragged along in the snow than leave your hold, for it is a great disgrace to lose your [64] dogs, and be obliged to wade through the snow on foot; not to mention that the dogs very often entangle themselves in their harness, in which case, the driver must take off his gloves in the cold to put them to rights, and is often in danger of being soiled with their dung. The worst trick you can play a driver, is to cast a piece of jukol among his dogs, who fight for it until they are thrown into the utmost confusion. If he be in company with others, he is thus prevented from keeping up with them, and exposed to all the inconveniencies of going behind; the principal of which is, that the dung of the other dogs is continually freezing on his sledge, and requires him every moment to clear it away with his knife. When you get to a public-house, you are not free from your dogs. The instant they are unharnessed, they must be tied to a post. Nor can they be immediately fed, for they must wait until the sweat is dried off. A whole or half a jukol is then given them, but the master must stand by to see that every dog gets his part, and also to drive away the crows, which are not very shy in this country. They will collect in great quantities round the dogs if not thus guarded, and snap up all their allowance."

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133 more than the melting of snow and rain which de-
231 scend from the eternally snow-clad peaks. The quantity of horned cattle upon the coast is so small as not to merit notice, although the pastures are extensive and fertile enough to feed millions.

563 At Sedanka we procured dogs to enable us to cross the mountains to the next station, a distance of one hundred miles. Early in the morning we passed the camp of the Koriaks, and continued our route along the Sedanka river for forty miles, when we reached the Rasoshna. We encamped for the night in the snow, the dogs round us, and then the fire; we passed on the whole, a pleasant night, although my feet were still in a bad state, owing probably to their late want of pedestrian exercise.

133 The following day we crossed numerous elevated
137 lakes, and then over mountains and a well wooded country. On our way we fell in with a caravan of eleven nartes from the town of Cliutchi bound to
133 Tygil. We continued until we reached an elevated
132 desert of ten miles long, which we crossed in a continual storm of wind and snow, called in this country *purga;* we halted in a miserable place, having come about thirty miles. I can hardly imagine how the poor dogs found their way, or how they managed to drag us along. There are times when these *purgas* are so tremendous that mountains of snow are levelled, immense valleys filled, whirlpools formed of snow, not only stopping the further progress of the traveller, but absolutely burying him

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136 sheep, and sometimes a few lynxes, are also to be
438 found. The number of skins annually exported
439 and consumed in the peninsula is about thirty thousand, of which sables and foxes form the principal part. The sables are considered at once the warmest and the coarsest known; the foxes however, especially the fiery red, are of the finest spe-
231 cies. Next to these furs, the dogs of Kamtchatka may be considered as forming a great part of their riches. These faithful and useful animals, are employed to transport fish, supply the house with water, the cattle with hay,—in short to do all the work that horses perform in England. They are fed as circumstances may dictate, being always left to shift for themselves from June to October. They are of a coarse appearance, in shape resembling a common house-dog, but endued with great sagacity, and it is to be regretted that they are not relieved a little by the importation of horses.

136 Independent of fish and wild animals, the Kamtchatdales derive also a considerable benefit from the surprising quantities of geese, ducks, swans,
251 snipes, and wild cocks. They are preserved by
262 dipping them in water, which freezing, they will be good as long as winter continues; at other times they are salted. The ducks and snipes are most excellent; but the geese, swans, and wild sheep are considered venison, and of the most delicious kind too, by those who are termed epicures; for myself although I have frequently partaken of them,

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177 pearance there is no difference whatever. They
181 seem a race disburthened of all care and consideration for the future, and entirely resigned to any fate which may await them, whether it be oppression or starvation.

177 In my opinion, and I speak it most sincerely, the
771 aborigines have not derived much benefit from the
793 conquest of their country by the Russians, as even their conversion to Christianity has done little other good, than entitled them to the name of Christians. The great number of priests and deacons (twenty-six in number) would, I presume, suggest an expectation of more learning and piety in this part of the world than in other semi-barbarous places; but really I have never seen any good effects from the labours of these reverend gentlemen. Certainly there is no population corresponding to the number of
161 ecclesiastics, as will appear on considering that the
231 whole Kamtchatdale population does not exceed,
563 male and female, two thousand seven hundred and sixty, while their dogs amount to two thousand two hundred and eight. The number of Russians is one thousand two hundred and sixty. The inhabitants north of Tygil and Nishney Kamtchatks, are four hundred and ninety-eight, while in the Koriak villages there are one hundred souls; making a population of four thousand five hundred and seventy-four, men, women, and children, Rus-
162 sians, Kamtchatdales and Koriaks. Whether the original population has not decreased in a surpris-

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171 - with a dialect of the same language, originating
181 from the Mongolian, and the only difference be-
177 tween them and the Kamtchatdales is, that they are a more manly, and consequently a more independent race; for of all the people at present
157 existing, I believe the natives of this peninsula to
181 be the most affable and hospitable; but, at the same time, the most cowardly and insensible. I never saw in any part of the world a people more abused, under the sanction of a proverb, now become almost a principle, "God is high, and the Emperor far off."

000 Their modes of fishing and hunting, and such productions of the country as I have not noticed may be found in Cook's and other travels. I will therefore proceed to compare the present happiness of the people of this Peninsula, with that which
231 they formerly enjoyed. In the first place, as to
563 their possessions in horses or horned cattle.—It
R appears by the last census, that there are but one
177 hundred and nine of the former, and nine hundred
.23 and sixty-eight of the latter in the whole Peninsula, two-thirds of which are in the hands of the Russians; and but three hundred and ninety-three head of cattle in the possession of three thousand four hundred Kamtchatdales and Koriaks. It is to be regretted that the flattering prospects held out by Captain King, have not been realized. The introduction of horses and horned cattle would much tend to ameliorate the condition of the peo-

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231 R 177 .23 ple, were they once imported upon a large scale. The dogs, like the aborigines, are on the decline, and probably twenty or thirty years more will leave nothing in Kamtchatka but the Russians and animals of the chase. When it is recollected that Kamtchatka has such magnificent and extensive meadows, and that the climate is not severe; and when it is considered with what facility government might send each year two or three hundred head of young cattle by the annual transports to Tygil, it may be naturally supposed that the different chiefs have been attending more to their personal concerns than to those of the peninsula. That the place might be made even to flourish, there can be no reasonable doubt.

651 R 177 .65 The expenses of the colony have been very great to Russia, and must continue so, as long as the present plan is persisted in. The yasack amounts to a less sum of money than the single maintenance of a chief. Five hundred heads of foxes or sables, worth six thousand roubles, or three hundred pounds, is the amount; while the expences of the colony cannot fall short of two hundred thousand roubles, or ten thousand pounds.

164 758 R 177 .75 The depopulated state of this peninsula is also to be attributed to other causes. Their continual wars and insurrections greatly thinned them, and these were followed by the introduction of the small-pox, which in the year 1768, carried off no less than six thousand persons; and twenty thousand are sup-

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000 extinct, and with them the very being of the Yakuti, who are even now going down in an equal ratio.

231 R 177 .23 Much benefit has been derived to the colony from the exertions of the present Chief, Captain Rikord. The rule of never allowing a cow to be killed until she is past calving, is in itself excellent, but the stock on hand is so small that a century would elapse before what can be termed herds of cattle could be seen wandering and feasting upon the almost unbounded pastures of the peninsula. What the different chiefs have been doing for the last fifty years, Heaven alone knows! When Captains King and Clarke were here, they seem to have taken it for granted, or to have been informed, that cattle of all descriptions were in a flourishing state. From the proximity of Okotsk to Tygil, a couple of transports might, in one summer, transport at least one thousand head of cattle, which, repeated for ten years, would place the peninsula in an absolutely enviable situation. This act of humanity would be attended with no expense to the government; the Kamtchatdales would willingly pay the value in sables, and the result would be, that no part of the vast Russian empire would be richer or better provided with food of various descriptions than the distant province of Kamtchatka.

134 241 R 177 .24 Upon the banks of the Kamtchatka, where the land lies distant from the salt water, and sheltered by the mountains from the east winds; as well as

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134 on those banks which have been enriched by the
241 lava emitted by the volcanoes, barley, oats, and
R rye have been produced, but in no instance with
177 so much success as to pay the labour. The pro-
.24 ductions, it is true, have been a little more varied and a little riper, but rarely consumable. In spite of this fact, the gazettes of St. Petersburgh formally and officially announce this year that a quartern of rye produced nine quarterns, and that the size or weight of a common potatoe was three quarters of a pound. Three quarters of an ounce would be a sufficient tax upon credulity: I have no hesitation in saying that both these reports are fabulous in every sense of the word, for I have never seen a potatoe in the whole province either ripe, or larger than a hen's egg.

If large herds of cattle were distributed on the banks of the Kamtchatka, and other favoured places, with the benefit of manure, agricultural implements, and knowledge, no doubt the soil might be made to answer the purpose. I certainly cannot conceive the climate of Kamtchatka to be such, as of itself to preclude the pursuit of agriculture in some of its minor branches, as I consider the soil to be much superior to that of Connecticut, or Massachusetts, or either of our Canadas.

231 In the vicinity of Avatcha are to be seen, what are by some termed artificial enclosures, within which cattle were formerly maintained, but I conclude them to be natural enclosures formed by the

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231 overflowing of the rivers. My reason is, that no enclosure is to be found upon the land side, but only on the borders of the rivers, and small streams, and there they are perfect; and we are generally informed that the Kamtchatdales possessed no other domestic animals than dogs.

Before entirely closing these remarks respecting Kamtchatka, and its grievances, I may just advert
563 to one or two points not hitherto dwelt on. The
793 children of the natives receive no education, and
871 the children of the Russians but little more. There
R certainly is a school existing in St. Peter and St.
177 Paul's, governed by a priest, and regular school-
.87 master; but one is a great rogue, and the other a greater sot. The sum allowed for the maintenance of each child is, I believe, five pounds per annum, scarcely enough to buy clothing, and were it not for the abundance of fish caught, and some assistance from their families, I really do not see
563 how the boys could be kept alive. Of the clerical
793 gentlemen themselves, I may observe, that they
R maintain a great distinction between practice and
177 precept. They are very numerous: I know not what
.79 so many do in so poor a place, there being no congregations to employ so great a number. The revenue received by these reverend gentlemen is far from inconsiderable, and although it is done under the disguise of voluntary contribution, still it presses heavy upon the people; and heavier still when it is considered that they do little work of any kind be-

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the inhabitants make their parkas and all their warm clothing, which are also exceedingly comfortable and beautiful. The climate of the islands resembles that of St. Peter and St. Paul's. The soil is generally good, producing fine pastures. On the first isle there was formerly an abundance of cattle, but now only two cows remain.

The second island, about ninety miles from the first, has seven yourtes, with thirty-five males and forty-two females, paying tribute for itself and the fourteenth isle, nominally, thirty-five sea-otters; that is, twenty-three foxes and one hundred and fifty roubles. The fourteenth isle has three yourtes, fifteen males, and seventeen females. Of the intermediate islands, and those beyond the fourteenth, I could obtain but very little information; the whole are evidently volcanic productions, and are supposed to have been separated by some violent convulsion of nature from the peninsula of Kamtchatka. The islands, which are lofty and bold, are said to be without rivers, nor are there any harbours known. It is to be remembered, however, that they have been but very imperfectly surveyed. The inhabitants are supposed to be of the same origin as those of Kamtchatka, though they differ in the custom of wearing long beards, which was probably introduced among them by the Russians. Their dialect is the same with that of the inhabitants near Cape Lopatka; from whence baidares are frequently sent to the first and second isle, to bring the tribute and furs. [the Kurils--Analyst]